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NATIONAL GRANGE,

Patrons of Husbandry.

WHAT THE GRANGE HAS ACCOMPLISHED FOR FARMERS. —THE SOCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL FEATURES OF THE ORDER.—THE FARMER IN LEGISLATION. —HOW TO ORGANIZE GRANGES, ETC.

ALPHA MESSER, Lecturer, Rochester, Vt.

INCLUDING THE

Declaration of Purposes.

☞ Circulars and other printed matter relating to the Grange can be obtained at this office.

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To Members of the Order and other Farmers in all parts of the Country:

PATRONS AND FRIENDS:

It is 27 years since the Order of Patrons of Husbandry was instituted, and during the interval of time from then to the present, its principles have been proclaimed in nearly every town and hamlet in our broad land and farmers by thousands and tens of thousands have flocked to the standard of the Grange, and with their wives, their sons and their daughters have been enrolled as husbandmen and matrons in an Order which seeks the moral, social and educational advancement of the rural population of our country. In the rapid advance and phenomenal increase of the membership of the Order in its early days it is not strange that some of its underlying truths and principles were not fully comprehended by many of its members, who for this and other reasons ceased to become active workers in the cause in which they were engaged.

But as these dropped off new members rapidly took their places and with those whose faith was firmer in the principles and ultimate success of the Order, the work was carried forward and the organization became firmly established in nearly all parts of the country, and to day it stands upon a safe, sure foundation as the only national farmer's organization in existence. The renewed interest which is manifested in the Grange calls for some statements in regard to its principles, its work and its prospects, that former members may be inspired to renew their allegiance to the Order, and that those who have never been members may be induced to become co-workers with other farmers in improving their condition and unitedly battling for the equal justice and fair play which is guaranteed to every citizen in our land.

In our noble Declaration of Purposes which is printed below we mutually resolve to labor "for the good of our Order, our

country and mankind." We heartily endorse the motto, "In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things, charity."

ECONOMIC QUESTIONS.

As the members of the Grange are from all political parties and adherents of different faiths and creeds it gives them the widest latitude of thought and expression in regard to their beliefs and party affiliations, insisting only that "partisan or sectarian questions" be not made a point of contention in the Grange. It is right and proper that all economic and political questions affecting the general interests of the farming population should be fully and freely discussed in a non-partisan spirit in the Grange, for in no other way can the members of the Order so well understand the true merits or demerits of the question before them, and arrive at just and fair conclusions as to what are their rights and duties as citizens. The educational work of the Grange for the past few years, in this line alone, is of untold value to the farmers, and the country as well. Ten years ago the farmers as a rule had but a very meagre knowledge of the great economic questions which affect the interests of the people, such as immigration, finance and the tariff. But by frequent discussions and careful study of these problems from all sides; the farmers of the country are preparing themselves to act with wisdom and discretion in the final settlement of these momentous issues.

Senator Chandler, in his speech to the National Grange at the Concord, N. H., session said that the country was looking to the intelligent farming population to solve the great problems which were agitating the nation, and he was sure that when settled they would be settled right. It is not to be inferred that farmers are at present agreed upon all these questions. Upon some of them there is a wide diversity of opinion, but they are all earnest seekers for truth and all earnestly desire the the greatest prosperity for the farming population of the country; and when this desire shall supplant the desire for the success of party, then will there be a cohesion of forces and grand results will follow. But these results cannot be reached at once and no one need be discouraged that this is so. Re-

forms are of slow growth. "Rome was not built in a day," neither can the farmers regain the ground which was lost partly through indifference and neglect in a moment. It is to a great degree a campaign of education, and the Grange must necessarily become a school of thought and investigation that its members may fully realize all the conditions, favorable and unfavorable, by which they are surrounded, and the measures which must be taken to change the unfavorable conditions to those that are more favorable. In many sections of the country, the farmers seemingly do not fully realize the immense power which they possess, nor the great responsibility which is resting upon them as the possessors of this great power. The spark of liberty and of freedom in this grand country of ours was kindled into a flame by the farmer heroes of the Revolution, and from that day to this the flames have been bright and glowing whenever the farmers of the nation have fed the fires, but they have been dimmed, yes, more than dimmed, when political demagogues, corporate power, trusts and monopolies have been permitted access to its holy altars and used their dampening, smothering, destroying agencies in obliterating the holy flame. It is not a question as to how much power the farmers of the country have in their hands, but as to what use shall be made of that power if used at all. The grand record of Grange work for the past quarter of a century is a triumphant answer that the farmers are determined to use the immense power, which God, in his infinite wisdom, has committed to their care for their own and their country's good as enjoined in the Declaration of Purposes quoted above.

THE FARMER IN LEGISLATION.

In this connection it is proper to say that the influence of farmers in politics is felt more in state than in national legislation, and this is because it is easier to reach the State legislatures than the national congress. In the former the farmers through the direct influence of the Grange have invaded the State legislative halls and grappled with the questions of taxation, education, corporate franchises, and other matters of importance affecting the interests of the people of the different

States, and in nearly every instance they have won or will win the victory for the right.

The farmers are deeply interested in matters of taxation. they want to know how to meet increasing rates of taxation with decreasing receipts from the farm. They know that they pay an unjust proportion of the taxes, because a large proportion of other than farm property is lightly taxed, or not taxed at all. Through the direct influence and work of the Grange, this matter has been agitated in many States and in some great reforms have been effected; in others the work is still going on, while in still others it needs but the organized efforts of the farming population to inaugurate and carry forward the tax reforms so greatly needed. In matters of education, relating more directly to the agricultural colleges of the country the Grange has done a work which merits the lasting gratitude of all classes of people in the land. Through its direct influence the agricultural colleges in a majority of the States have been divorced from the classical institutions with which they at first became connected, and are now imparting instruction to the youth of the several States in the line of practical agriculture and mechanic arts. In other States, where the divorcement has not been complete, important changes have been effected and agricultural education has been given a more prominent position than in the past, with the prospect of still greater recognition in the future. In most States legislation granting special privileges to corporations has been given a severe check through the farmer's votes and influence and it only requires united persistent effort to stop it entirely. In many States stringent enactments in regard to food adulterations have been secured from the law-making bodies and the same influence which secured the passage of these wholesome laws in the interest of humanity and good health, are now effectually used in their enforcement.

In many States State Grange legislative committees are appointed whose duty it is to look after the interests of farmers in State legislatures and their influence is a power for good in many directions.

No one questions the great value of the Grange in this direction and all classes are glad of its wholesome and restraining influence in State legislation.

If this be true, and if it be true that a little legislation directed by the intelligent farming element in several States is beneficial and in the interest of all classes, why would not more legislation from the same source be of proportionate benefit to the people? The nearer legislation gets to the soil the closer will it be allied to God's plan of equal rights and justice to all.

While the Grange has exerted a potent influence in national legislation, it has accomplished proportionately less here than in State legislation, because this representative body is much farther removed from the people, and the farmer's have much less personal influence in and upon this body, but this lack of influence is entirely uncalled for. Hitherto farmers have sought to exert an influence in Congress by petition and remonstrance, but these have been heeded only to a limited extent, and the farmers have generally become convinced that this course of procedure is a loss of time and

A FOOLISH WASTE OF ENERGY,

and that the only sensible way to secure the enactment of just laws by Congress and the repeal of unjust ones, is to elect a Congress a majority of whose members will fairly represent the intelligent farming element in this country. What can be expected of a Congress which is so manifestedly out of proportion as to contain 245 lawyers to represent the legal fraternity, and scarcely a dozen real farmers to represent the millions of agricultural toilers in this country?

What the Grange seeks to do is to call the attention of the farming population to this enormity in the make up of the highest law making body in the land, and direct their thought to a radical change in this direction. Much more might be said in these lines. But there are other phases of Grange work to be noted.

SOCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL FEATURES.

The home and the farm receive its fostering care. The social element in our natures is brought to the surface and developed as never before, culture and refinement are made to go

hand in hand, and a higher and nobler type of manhood and womanhood is the result. Never before in the history of the Order has there been such a deep interest manifested in the work of the Grange, in nearly all parts of the country, as at the present time.

Never before have its objects been placed upon so high a plane of thought and intelligent action. And this applies not only to the moral, social and educational features of the Order which are always at the front, but to its financial features as well. Experience has shown that co-operation in insurance, in buying and selling, cannot be successfully conducted except upon the most improved business methods, and by men of the strictest integrity and with special qualifications for the various departments in which they may be called to act. Consequently, the intelligence and experience, which has been brought to bear upon and applied to these features of the Order have so changed the sentiment of the business world that former antagonisms have greatly subsided, and special opposition is largely a thing of the past. And thus it is that other classes who are not eligible to membership, but who are in hearty sympathy with every movement of the people for the uplifting of humanity, have been watching its progress, and having become satisfied that its mission is a grand and noble one, they are ready and willing to use their influence and lend a helping hand whenever they can to encourage its members and assist in spreading its truths and principles among the people.

Thousands of farmers who were once members now see the mistake they made in giving up the grange and neglecting the best means for social enjoyment, education and co-operation in its various lines, which the farmers of this or any other country have ever known. Thousands of other farmers who have never joined the Grange, but have learned somewhat of its privileges and its benefits and have witnessed

THE WONDERFUL TRANSFORMATIONS

of neighborhoods and towns where its silent but potent influences have been at work moulding and shaping the sentiment and thought of farming communities in those lines of intelligence, thrift, industry and refinement which tend to make

happy farmers' homes and contented, prosperous farmers. The former member wants to again become affiliated with the Grange, and the Grange welcomes him back to the old home organization with all the cordiality of a brother's unbounded love. It also welcomes with outstretched arms the brother farmer and his family who have never joined hands with the Grange.

It needs your help, your presence, your influence and your counsel, and you need the blessed influences of the grand fraternity, and the numberless blessings which it has in store for every earnest working member. The Grange does not invite you nor the unaffiliated brother to an empty, cheerless home. Its members are now numbered by the hundred thousand, and while in many sections they have not experienced that degree of prosperity which should have been the result of honest toil, they are not wholly cast down, believing that when united with others by the strong ties of agriculture through an efficient organization they can overcome all opposing forces and in legimate ways secure for home and family a just reward for their labors. In this work we need the farmers from the north and from the south, from the east and from the west. No section of the country can be left out, and every condition of farmers is welcomed in the Grange. The 60,000 Patrons from their snug homes among the snow clad hills and icy vales of New England are glad to work hand in hand with their brothers and sisters in the sunny south, on the prairies and plains of the west, and in all other sections of our country.

The same spirit actuates the Grange hosts in the Empire State, the Keystone State and every other State in our broad domain. The membership may and do differ in politics and their religious tenets, but they are in entire harmony in their desire for self-improvement, and in their efforts for such representation in legislative halls as will secure for them the enactment of wise and wholesome laws in the interests of the people, and not for the favored few.

ORGANIZATION OF GRANGES.

Then let the watchword for 1894 be organize, organize, improvement, improvement, action, action. New Granges should be called into existence and dormant Granges revived and the

membership of existing Granges be multiplied on every hand; but new Granges cannot be organized without an effort, neither can dormant ones be revived without persistent work on the part of deputies and those who have the matter in charge. With this understanding of the matter, no one should enter the field as deputy or organizer who is not willing to labor and who is not in hearty sympathy and touch with the truths and principles of the Order. In organizing and reorganizing Granges experience has shown that the work cannot be profitably done in a wholesale way as in the early days of the Order; neither is it desirable that it should be done in this way for the permanence and usefulness of the Grange. The most successful method for organizing at the present time is through the personal efforts of the deputy and his assistants. The present popularity and standing of the Grange in most sections of the country is such that there is little difficulty in effecting an organization in unoccupied territory in any farming community. After the deputy or organizer has received definite instructions from the master of the State Grange and has learned that there is a desire for a Grange in a given locality, he should go to that place and secure as an assistant and guide one or more of the leading farmers of the town and with him make a house to house canvass, visiting such farmers as have an influence and standing in the town. To these the objects and aims of the Order should be presented in a candid way with such statements in regard to what the Order has accomplished, what it is now doing and what some of its future possibilities are, as the facts in the case will warrant.

It is not wise to make any exaggerated statements in regard to any features of the work, because the time has come when the intelligent farmers of the country cannot be long deceived in regard to any movement of importance in any direction, much less in regard to anything which relates directly to their own interests. The simple, plain, straightforward truth about the Grange from the lips of a well informed, earnest worker, whose whole heart and soul are enlisted in the cause, will, in a short time, convince any intelligent, progressive farmer that his interests, and the interests of his family, can best be subserved

by uniting with others in the formation of a Grange. No man should be made to think that by simply joining the Grange his country will be saved, his fortune made or his salvation secured. But he should be made to understand, that by joining the Grange he is to become a worker with others, in the grand movement which is now going forward in educating and elevating the farmers, and thus enabling them through their intelligence, and unity of thought and action to become masters of the situation. A Grange formed of good material on such a basis will be sure of success. In this canvass the good wife should not be overlooked, nor the intelligent boy, nor the bright girl—all are needed to make up the ideal Grange. When a sufficient number of these good people have become interested, a meeting should at once be called and an organization effected, and the Grange will then be ready to begin its work and the deputy will enter a new field with renewed zeal and energy.

Twenty or thirty good members are enough to start the Grange. If these are of the right material others will soon join and the Grange will be able to do better work than with a large organization at the outset. Any person desiring a Grange organization, should write to the Master or Secretary of the State Grange, or direct a letter to this office and it will receive prompt attention. From what has been said it should not be inferred that all the work of organization must be done by the deputies alone, because it is not so. Every member of the Grange should become a worker and a missionary to carry the good Grange gospel wherever he or she goes, and thus scatter the seeds of love, of hope and good cheer which will spring up and bear the precious fruits of fraternity and the brotherhood of man, to the blessings of home, the uplifting of humanity and the saving of the country. For further information in regard to the Grange and its work, address

Yours fraternally,

ALPHA MESSER,

Lecturer National Grange.

ROCHESTER, VT.

DECLARATION OF PURPOSES

- - OF THE - -

PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY.

PREAMBLE.

Profoundly impressed with the truth that the National Grange of the United States should definitely proclaim to the world its general objects, we hereby unanimously make this Declaration of Purposes of the Patrons of Husbandry:

GENERAL OBJECTS.

1. United by the strong and faithful tie of Agriculture, we mutually resolve to labor for the good of our Order, our country and mankind.

2. We heartily endorse the motto "In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things, charity."

SPECIFIC OBTECTS.

We shall endeavor to advance our cause by laboring to accomplish the following objects:

To develop a better and higher manhood and womanhood among ourselves. To enhance the comforts and attractions of our homes, and strengthen our attachments to our pursuits. To foster mutual understanding and co-operation. To maintain inviolate our laws and to emulate each other in labor, to hasten the good time coming. To reduce our expenses, both individual and corporate. To buy less and produce more, in order to make our farms self-sustaining. To diversify our crops, and crop no more than we can cultivate. To condense the weight of our exports, selling less in the bushel and more on hoof and in fleece; less in lint and more in warp and woof.

To systematize our work, and calculate intelligently on probabilities. To discountenance the credit system, the mortgage system, the fashion system, and every other system tending to prodigality and bankruptcy.

We propose meeting together, talking together, working together, buying together, selling together, and, in general, acting together for our mutual protection and advancement, as occasion may require. We shall avoid litigation as much as possible by arbitration in the Grange. We shall constantly strive to secure entire harmony, good will, vital brotherhood among ourselves. and to make our Order perpetual. We shall earnestly endeavor to suppress personal, local, sectional, and national prejudices, all unhealthy rivalry, all selfish ambition. Faithful adherance to these principles will insure our mental, moral, social and material advancement.

BUSINESS RELATIONS.

4. For our business interests we desire to bring producers and consumers, farmers and manufacturers, into the most direct and friendly relations possible. Hence we must dispense with a surplus of middle-men, not that we are unfriendly to them, but we do not need them. Their surplus and their exactions diminish our profits.

We wage no aggressive warfare against any other interests whatever. On the contrary, all our acts and all our efforts, so far as business is concerned, are not only for the benefit of the producer and consumer, but also for all other interests that tend to bring these two parties into speedy and economical contact. Hence we hold that transportation companies of every kind are necessary to our success, that their interests are intimately connected with our interests, and harmonious action is mutually advantageous, keeping in view the first sentence in our Declaration of Principles of action, that "Individual happiness depends upon general prosperity."

We shall, therefore, advocate for every State the increase in every practicable way, of all facilities for transporting cheaply to the sea-board, or between home producers and consumers, all the productions of our country. We adopt it as our fixed purpose to "open out the channels in nature's great arteries, that the life-blood of commerce may flow freely."

We are not enemies of railroads, navigable and irrigating canals, nor of any corporation that will advance our industrial interests, nor of any laboring classes.

In our noble Order there is no communism, no agrarianism. We are opposed to such spirit and management of any corporation or enterprise as tends to oppress the people and rob them of their just profits. We are not enemies to capital, but we oppose the tyranny of monopolies. We long to see the antagonism between capital and labor removed by common consent, and by an enlightened statesmanship worthy of the nineteenth century. We are opposed to excessive salaries, high rates of interest and exorbitant per cent profits in trade. They greatly increase our burdens, and do not bear a proper proportion to the profits of producers. We desire only self-protection, and the protection of every true interest of our land, by legitimate transactions, legitimate trade, and legitimate profits.

EDUCATION.

We shall advance the cause of education among ourselves, and for our children, by all just means within our power. We especially advocate for our agricultural and industrial colleges, that practical agriculture, domestic science, and all the arts which adorn the home, be taught in their courses of study.

THE GRANGE NOT PARTISAN.

5. We emphatically and sincerely assert the oft repeated truth taught in our organic law, that the Grange—National, State or Subordinate—is not a political or party organization. No Grange, if true to its obligations, can discuss sectarian or partisan questions, nor call political conventions, nor nominate candidates, nor even discuss their merits in its meetings.

Yet the principles we teach underlie all true politics, and all true statesmanship, and, if properly carried out, will tend to purify the whole political atmosphere of our country. For we seek the greatest good to all.

We must always bear in mind that no one by becoming a Patron of Husbandry, gives up that inalienable right and duty which belongs to every American citizen, to take a proper interest in the politics of his country.

On the contrary, it is right for every member to do all in his power legitimately to influence for good the action of any political party to which he belongs. It is his duty to do all he can in his own party to put down bribery, corruption and trickery; to see that none but competent, faithful and honest men, who will unflinchingly stand by our industrial interests are nominated for all positions of trust; and to have carried out the principle which should always characterize every Patron, that

THE OFFICE SHOULD SEEK THE MAN, AND NOT THE MAN THE OFFICE.

We acknowledge the broad principle that difference of opinion is no crime, and hold that "progress toward truth is made by differences of opinion," while "the fault lies in bitterness of controversy."

We desire a proper equality, equity, and fairness; protection for the weak; restraint upon the strong; in short, justly distributed burdens and justly distributed power These are American ideas, the very essence of American independence, and to advocate the contrary is unworthy of the sons and daughters of an American Republic.

We cherish the belief that sectionalism is, and of right should be, dead and buried with the past. Our work is for the present and the future. In our agricultural brotherhood and its purposes we shall recognize no North, no South, no East, no West.

It is reserved by every Patron, as the right of a freeman, to affiliate with any party that will best carry out his principles.

OUTSIDE CO-OPERATION.

6. Ours being peculiarly a farmers' institution, we cannot admit all to our ranks.

Many are excluded by the nature of our organization, not because they are professional men, or artisans or laborers, but because they have not a sufficient direct interest in tilling the soil, or may have some interest in conflict with our purposes: But we appeal to all good citizens for their cordial co-operation to assist in our efforts toward reform, that we may eventually remove from our midst the last vestige of tyranny and corruption.

We hail the general desire for fraternal harmony, equitable compromises, and earnest co-operation, as an omen of our future success.

CONCLUSION.

7. It shall be an abiding principle with us to relieve any of our oppressed and suffering brotherhood by any means at our command.

Last, but not least, we proclaim it among our purposes to inculcate a proper appreciation of the abilities and sphere of women, as is indicated by admitting her to membership and position in our Order.

Imploring the continued assistance of our Divine Master to guide us in our work, we here pledge ourselves to faithful and harmonious labor for all future time, to return by our united efforts to the wisdom, justice, fraternity and political purity of our forefathers.

GRANGE NOTES.

BY THE LECTURER.

A good school teacher makes a good lecturer for the Grange.

Some Granges indulge in the old-fashioned lyceum debate occasionally with gratifying results.

When a farmer thinks he is independent of others he is fooling himself in regard to his own ignorance.

Every effort in the line of Grange work should be with a thought to the future influence and standing of the Order.

It makes the old veterans in Grange work rejoice to witness the present popularity, prosperity and influence of the Grange.

But few men who are not intimately connected with the Grange can realize its power for good in farming communities.

The Grange is developing some strong debaters among the younger members who will some day be heard from in legislative halls. Young man, are you one of that number?

It is unquestionably true that nearly all farmers in communities where Granges exist are more or less benefited by the Grange, and it is their reasonable duty, to say the least, to give the organization their support.

By joining the Grange the farmer is benefited by associating with those whose ideas may be in advance of his own, and he in turn becomes a benefactor to those who have not reached his own level. Step by step the Grange develops the man and elevates his character.

A prominent Grange worker in speaking upon the educational features of the Order made the following remark, "Unconscious education comes through social contact, and the whole atmosphere of our being becomes stimulated, as by a positive force, unseen yet realized."

The Grange has secured the enactment of many laws in State legislatures and in Congress, and all have been in the interests of the people, which goes to show that a majority of the members of the Grange are on the right side of public questions. It has done a good work thus far, and nobody denies it. Why not give it such support as will enable it to do much better work in the future?

Experience in all parts of the country has shown that the Grange cannot be made a success upon a purely financial basis or with a political or financial scheme as an end, but on the other hand, experience has shown that where the education and elevation of the farmers has been the end sought and these other agencies have been judiciously used as a means to that end, a large degree of success has been obtained.

Brother farmer, if you are not already a member of the Grange, you are cordially invited to join and assist in the work of education and elevation in which it is engaged.